Only two languages *viz.* Tamil & Sanskrit have been declared as 'Classical language'.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government of Karnataka and several other organizations have represented to declare Kannada as a classical language.

(e) The requests were forwarded to the Sahitya Akademi for the consideration of the Committee of Linguistic Experts.

Heritage villages/towns in tourism map

1522. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare the birthplace of prominent freedom fighters and martyrs as heritage villages/towns to bring these on the tourism map;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of such villages/towns falling in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Development of Bodhgaya in Bihar

1523. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare a Master Plan for development of Bodhgaya in Bihar, an important destination in a Buddhist tourists itinerary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that Orissa is also a hub of Buddhist tourism; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of the Govemment to develop Buddhist Heritage Centres in this State?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Government/UT Administrations for tourism related projects including Buddhist sites which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

(b) In the year 2005-06, Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda Tourist Circuit Project has been sanctioned for the total amount of Rs. 768.12 lakh.

Following projects/circuits/events and festivals have been prioritized for the State of Bihar in the year 2006-07 in consultation with the State Tourism Department, Govt. of Bihar:—

Circuit-Bodhgaya-Nalanda-Rajgir

Events-Buddha Mahotsav

(c) and (d) Yes sir. The project Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa-Development of facilities at Lalitagiri, Ratnagiri, Udaygiri and Langudi under Tourist Circuit was sanctioned in the year 2004-05 for a total amount of Rs. 740.67 lakh.

Unearthing of stupas of Ashoka period in Orissa

1524. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2300 years old eight stupas of Ashoka period have been unearthed in Jaipur District of Orissa recently; and

(b) the measures taken for proper excavation and preservation of the newly found treasures?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Orissan Institute of Maritime and South-East Asian Studies,